

Mission & Vision

Mission

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) promotes excellence in school librarianship and advocates for strong school library media programs for all students. NJASL provides school library media specialists with educational opportunities and current information aligned with state and national learning standards to ensure that all school libraries empower students, faculty, and staff to become effective and ethical users and producers of information.

Vision

Every student in every school in New Jersey is served by a certified full time school library media specialist and has access to the technology and other resources needed. All students are empowered to achieve success through inquiry-based, collaborative school library programs led by credentialed school library media specialists. These professionals are recognized as educational leaders and indispensable resources in their school communities.

Key Concepts



Job Retention and Growth



Communication



Professional Development



Fiscal Strength

Critical Issue 1: Job Retention and Growth

SLMS are suffering a 20% job loss in NJ. How can NJASL create opportunities to support school librarians by advocating on their collective behalf with stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels?

Goal:

Maintain and increase certified positions of school library media specialists in school libraries across the state.

Targeted Strategies:

1. Develop a statewide job description with respect to state and national standards.
2. Develop a list of exemplar school library programs.
3. Stabilize positions filled with certified school library media specialists using advocacy tools.
4. Incorporate face to face legislation visits in the most critical areas.
5. Strengthen partnership with stakeholder groups to aid in advocating for positions in crisis.

Critical Issue 2: Streamlined Communication

How can NJASL improve the flow of information easily and consistently to all members and stakeholders?

Goal: Develop a transparent communication process which allows for the easy flow of information.

Targeted Strategies:

1. Implement a Chief GAFO Officer to manage all facets of GAFO communication and define policies and procedures for use.
2. Update orientation packet outlining communication process for all members.
3. Target communication streams that bring the greatest benefit to NJASL.

Critical Issue 3: Ongoing Professional Development

PD is the hallmark benefit of NJASL membership.

Goal: Carefully curate and cultivate professional development outreach opportunities as one of the finest benefits of NJASL membership.

Targeted Strategies:

1. Update NJASL website to be more streamlined and easier to use in order to easily locate the most valuable teaching and learning tools.
2. Develop a schedule of PD opportunities forecasted for the next year.
3. Review and update award opportunities to ensure all awards given provide a return on investment and create a PD opportunity.

Critical Issue 4: Maintain Fiscal Stability

Goal: Continue building membership and conference revenue to drive operating budget.

Targeted Strategies:

1. Set a meaningful membership goal and create a method of reaching goal.
2. Review and reflect on conference strategy in order to bring cost savings.
3. Develop a volunteer pipeline to increase member participation in NJASL and retain members over time